

The Church of God Evangel

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place." Acts 2:1. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:4.

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Work For The Evangel And Get All The Subscribers You Can!

Keep The Pentecostal Fire Blazing in Your Soul The Entire Year!

ADDRESS BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY

General Overseer Instructs The Members
And Exhorts Them to be Loyal.

Move Forward With Vigorous Step.

"If you demand my person, I am ready to submit; carry me to prison or to death, I will not resist; but I will never betray the Church of Christ. I will not call upon the people to succour me; I will die at the foot of the altar rather than desert it." These words were spoken by the Bishop of Milan in the year 334 when a strong faction of the Arians under took to force him to give them the use of two of his houses of worship.

All along through the ages there have been men of God who have stood with nerves of steel against the wrong. They could be taken to prison, but they would not give up their faith. They would submit to torture and even to death itself, but they would not give up their fidelity to Christ and His Church. Every decade has produced its men filled with the martyr spirit. Every reform and revolution have had their leaders and adherents who could not be forced to retreat or surrender. The present decade is not an exception.

There may be no occasion for a repetition of the above statement, but I dare say that the same uncompromising spirit is just as strong today as any time in the history of the Church of God, and under the same circumstances would manifest itself with as much undaunted heroism as in the earlier years of Christianity. In the Church of God to-day we have men and women who are firmly fixed upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets that no amount of persecution would cause them to give up the faith and retract. They are as bold as lions and as solid as Gibraltar.

The Assembly

We have met again after twelve more months have rolled into eternity. The Fifteenth Annual Assembly of the churches of God. And while Jesus does not speak to us as He did at the feasts at Jerusalem in His day, yet He speaks to us by a sure word of prophecy. He said He would be in our midst when we are gathered together in His name, and surely we now have His blessed presence with us for we are truly gathered together in His name in this Annual Feast. Yes, He is here. I feel His presence. You feel His presence. How sacred the atmosphere! How pleasant the surroundings! We have the beautiful light shining upon us from above. We are drinking of the water of life that flows from the fountain that never runs dry. The blessed presence of Jesus! (The power of God came down in a wonderful way at this time.) We would rather have His favor and presence than a world full of gold.

We are here to enjoy the sweetest Christian fellowship. The music, the songs, the handshakes, the pleasant surroundings, the bright shining faces, all remind us of heaven, the place of everlasting bliss and glory. Already we have been refreshed and blest in our souls. The inspiration we have received is invaluable. Many have been blest as they come this way. And the glory still rolls in their souls. And what will follow no one is able to describe. (Shouts over audience.)

The scene was in the Temple at Jerusalem, in the court of the women. The festival which was being celebrated for eight days was the annual Thanksgiving Feast of the Jews. In this court were not only the trumpet openings into which offerings of money were cast, but also the four gigantic candelabra, or branched candlesticks, seventy-five feet high, each with four golden bowls for oil, in the center of his court. At night these were lighted, and the light emanating from them was visible to the whole city. Around these lights pious men danced before the people with lighted candles in their hands, singing hymns and songs of praise, similar to the way our people dance and sing before the Lord in our meetings, while the Levites, who were stationed on the fifteen steps which led into the women's court, accompanied the songs with instruments of music.

Let us suppose ourselves among the number of worshippers who, on the last, the great day of the feast, are leaving their booths at day-break to take part in the service. The pilgrims were all in festive array. They follow a priest who bears a golden pitcher to the fountain of Siloam, in the valley south of the Temple. Here the priest fills from this fountain the golden pitcher, and brings it back into the court of the temple amid the shouts of the multitude and the sound of cymbals and trumpets.

The rejoicing was so great that the rabbis used to say that he who had never been present at the ceremony, and at the other similar ceremonies by which this feast was distinguished, did not know what rejoicing meant. The return was so timed that they should arrive just as they were laying the pieces of the sacrifice on the

great altar of burnt offerings, towards the close of the ordinary morning sacrifice service.

Just at this point, when the interest had been raised to its highest pitch, probably as the last words of the 118th Psalm were chanted, and the worshippers were saying, "Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord," * * * bind the sacrifice with cords, even unto the horns of the altar. * * * O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever," and its echoes were dying away into a hushed silence, a voice resounded through the Temple, so shrill and clear that all heaven and earth might hear "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink."

Again toward evening of the same day, the great lamps were lighted, shedding their light over the whole scene. These lamps were probably in commemoration of the pillar of fire which guided the Israelites through the wilderness to Canaan.

In a pause in the evening ceremonies, when the multitudes were hushed for a few moments the voice of Jesus once more rang out clear and strong: "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." As if He had said: Follow me as your fathers followed the Shekinah light, go where I show you the way, and as surely as they were led to their promised land, I will lead you and your nation to the fulfillment of your hopes, and the realization of the promises of God and of the visions of His prophets.

And we are now in the midst of our great feast—the Fifteenth Annual Assembly of the churches of God. And while Jesus does not speak to us as He did at the feasts at Jerusalem in His day, yet He speaks to us by a sure word of prophecy. He said He would be in our midst when we are gathered together in His name, and surely we now have His blessed presence with us for we are truly gathered together in His name in this Annual Feast. Yes, He is here. I feel His presence. You feel His presence. How sacred the atmosphere! How pleasant the surroundings! We have the beautiful light shining upon us from above. We are drinking of the water of life that flows from the fountain that never runs dry. The blessed presence of Jesus! (The power of God came down in a wonderful way at this time.) We would rather have His favor and presence than a world full of gold.

We are here to enjoy the sweetest Christian fellowship. The music, the songs, the handshakes, the pleasant surroundings, the bright shining faces, all remind us of heaven, the place of everlasting bliss and glory. Already we have been refreshed and blest in our souls. The inspiration we have received is invaluable. Many have been blest as they come this way. And the glory still rolls in their souls. And what will follow no one is able to describe. (Shouts over audience.)

When we were together twelve months ago crowded in the little house over the way, and when the enthusiasm ran so high that nothing could satisfy but a decision to build a larger house for the accommodation of those who attend these annual feasts, no one thought of a place so close at hand, and almost under the same opening of heaven from whence such wonderful blessings have come upon us. But here we are, close by the old spot where thousands have been blest, and over which "like as of fire" has been seen by truthful witnesses, and inside of which the "like as of fire" has played about over the congregations, and Jesus has been seen in visions standing by him who was chosen to fill certain exalted positions.

We are surely highly favored by Him who turns the hearts of kings like rivers of waters. The hand of divine providence has been guiding us in ways no one had ever marked out except Him who knew the end from the beginning. With J. H. Gilmore we can sing, "He leadeth me! O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me."

(Singers sang the song, congregation joining in chorus.)

HE LEADETH ME

He leadeth me! O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!

Whate'er I do, where'er I be, Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Chorus—

He leadeth me, He leadeth me.

cause he could not live now. We must be an honor to those men of God by filling our place in prophecy as nobly as they did in theirs. We must think of ourselves as chosen men and women for the purpose which we are serving, always and ever looking and moving forward with that spirit of progression that is in the Bible from life to life. No more fogism; but rather a go-forwardism that demands an increase of speed.

Woe unto the man or woman that undertakes to put on the brakes and pull back. Well do I remember one that was once with us who usually objected to progression. He often stated that it was his calling to put on the brakes. And he usually did it, too. He has been out of the Church for years because his brakes could not hold back the great avalanche Church of God. Others are out because they could not hold it in check. They do not seem to know that the Church is fulfilling prophecy and therefore it is irresistible. I shudder for some others who are still with us, because they can scarcely keep up with the progress we are making. Those who are going forward, putting their means and minds into it are doing so because they feel an impelling power behind them forcing them on. There had been some strong brakes pressed against the wheels at the Asserby for years. But the power became so strong three years ago that every brake was broken, and what tremendous strides have been made since that time can scarcely be estimated. I am reminded of a song that I have heard sung by some of our people—

(Congregation sang—

"We'll Roll the Old Chariot Along."

We'll roll the old chariot along, We'll roll the old chariot along, We'll roll the old chariot along, And we'll all shout, Glory, hallelujah!

Jesus'll help us to roll it along, Jesus'll help us to roll it along, Jesus'll help us to roll it along, And we'll all shout, Glory, hallelujah!

If the devil's in the way we'll roll it over him,

If the devil's in the way we'll roll it over him,

If the devil's in the way we'll roll it over him,

And we'll all shout, Glory, hallelujah!

If the devil's in the way we'll roll it over him,

If the devil's in the way we'll roll it over him,

If the devil's in the way we'll roll it over him,

And we'll all shout, Glory, hallelujah!

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If the devil's in the way we'll roll it over him,

And we'll all shout, Glory, hallelujah!

Yes, whoever gets in the way will be run over or thrust aside. A little child was once sitting in the path of a great elephant. People saw it and stood breathless for a moment thinking Jumbo would walk over it like he would walk over a nail, but as Jumbo approached the child he deliberately reached out his long trunk and picked up the little fellow and set it aside and went on. That is just what the Church of God has been doing with people that undertake to hinder its progress. It just sets them aside and goes on. If you do not want to be set aside you had better not get in the way and try to put on the brakes. I hope there is no one in this Assembly that will try to check the progress of the Church, or make an effort to sidetrack it from the purpose for which God intends it to serve, in its place in prophecy, in these last days. To undertake this would mean defeat and ruin to them just like some of the wrecks that you know of now that are lying in heaps on the roadside. Some who sat on the platform with us in the Assembly have fallen behind the curtain. Their lights have been extinguished. Their names have been dropped from the program. They will probably never appear again. It is indeed serious and sad enough, but the Church will move on without them. It must just as surely fill its place in prophecy in these last days as it did in its beginning. And it will, even if some individuals do become disloyal and rebellious. Yes, it will go right on!

Instruction

The Assembly was first called for the purpose of searching the Bible for information concerning the Church and her teaching. It has ever meant to be a school for instruction. Many good lessons have been learned by those who attended. The instructors have almost invariably been given special anointings for the purpose. The discourses have been full of inspiration to both speakers and hearers. The Holy Ghost has always been present to unfold the truths and make them clear and impressive.

We still need instruction. And we are fully expecting to get just what we need. The program gives a slight hint of what is coming, and we must prepare ourselves to receive. We have learned from year to year about God's government and order. We probably need to be reminded of things we already know. It is also very probable that we need to have some things emphasized and made clearer. There have been some objections raised against some of our practices. Doubtless these objections will all be answered before we get to the end of the last session. They object to the office of General Overseer. They object to his Councilors. They object to over-

seers of states and districts. They object to the way churches are supplied with pastors. They object to our money system. They object to the Bible Training School. In fact, the objectors object to nearly everything we do, and if we were to cut out everything that is objected to, we would have but little left. We need some more instructions about all of these points that are so obnoxious to these objectors. And we will get the instructions necessary for us to have this time.

General Overseer

They object to the title "General Overseer." They say it is not written in the Book. Well, if we should change the title they would continue to object, or if we were to have no title at all they would still object. It matters not about these objectors, the position is clearly taught both by the Scriptures, and other authentic ancient writings. The subject has been before us for years, and we have been fully convinced that James the Lord's brother held the exalted position. It has also been proven to our satisfaction that James the Lord's brother was not one of the twelve apostles, although two of the apostles were named James. One was James the son of Zebedee, the brother of John, and the other was James the son of Alpheus, of which there is very little known except what is given in the Bible. Although it is very clear that James, the Lord's brother, occupied the executive chair in the early Church, the Bible only calls him James with no further title. But when we take up other ancient writings we find that Saint Clement addressed him who held the position in the early Church thus: "Clement to James, the lord (evidently meaning the Lord's brother), and the bishop of bishops, who rules Jerusalem, the holy church of the Hebrews, and the churches everywhere excellently founded by the providence of God." In this epistle of Clement to the Bishop of Bishops, he notified James of the death of Peter at Rome, besides giving him much information that was important to James in his position.

The Elders

Why any one should object to the Councilors for the General Overseer is somewhat a mystery when the Bible is so clear on the subject, and every government of the world provides councilors for the chief executive. These Councilors have been a great help to your General Overseer. Their service has been highly appreciated by him, and it is impossible to express the gratitude due the Assembly for its acceptance of this Biblical truth that revealed the Council of Elders.

After a trial of nearly four years we are ready to say we made no mistakes in our decision to select this body of men as Councilors. As we move rapidly along, nearing the time of the return of the Lord, we feel a deep sense of satisfaction concerning this special matter. We want the Lord to find us with the very best organization. We do not want to come short in anything. We are assured of the fact that we have found the best form of government that was ever instituted, but we want to keep up a thorough examination of every detail to see if we have missed it in any way. And if we find we have missed it at all we do not want to be so dogmatic that we cannot change.

When the Assembly decided upon the appointment of this body of elders it was recommended that there should be twelve "selected soon and additions (to be) made from time to time as necessity demands until the number seventy is reached." The twelve were selected in due time and they have been serving faithfully, but we have never yet felt free to make any additions. Whether this has not been done because there has been no necessity for more, or whether there has been a delay from some other cause may not afford an answer now. At any rate there have been no additions made. And really we have seen no real necessity for additions since the counsel of the twelve has been sufficient to give the necessary aid to the General Overseer. This subject, however, may be discussed by one of the speakers on the program.

There is one thing, however, concerning this body of elders to which I wish to call attention. There were no provisions made in the face of the Assembly for relieving a member of his position in case of disloyalty, rebellion or other disorders, that would render him incompetent or unfit to serve in this high position. Having already met this condition of affairs in one instance we were compelled to take action and set aside the offender. This business had to be referred to the eleven with the General Overseer reached a perfect agreement in the case and the General Overseer announced to said offender that he was no longer a member of the Council. Thus he was dismissed, but not, however, until every effort possible was made to restore him to perfect fellowship and fidelity.

This plan was considered legal because of the principle adopted years

ago, that the same authority that appoints to a position has the same authority to recall when it becomes necessary. This principle places the power of dismissal in the hands of the General Overseer and the two chosen to assist him in making the appointments. Then the same principle places the authority with the General Overseer to dismiss the two appointed by himself. This is all very well as long as the two first chosen live, but if they or either of them should be called hence we would be left in an awkward position.

The position of General Overseer is perpetual and whoever succeeds him has the same authority, but not so with these two men unless the Assembly in session declares it so. In such case the one appointed to succeed the departed would be given the authority vested in the first one. That will do if the Assembly settles upon it, but I question the advisability of such a decision. I rather advise that the authority be given wholly to the General Overseer, or that the vacancy be filled by the next Elder below him and the new one be appointed to come in at the foot of the class. In case the Assembly should vest the authority in the General Overseer, of course, he would always consult with the Councilors before acting in his authoritative capacity. In case the Assembly decides on the second plan I recommend that all vacancies be filled by the next man below and the new ones always come in at the last. It is certainly important that these special points be given careful and prayerful consideration by this Assembly as we never know when one of our number will be called to his reward.

The Financial System

This subject has given us much concern for years. It takes money to run the business end of the Church. People sometimes get enthused and say the Lord will look after that if we will go on and do our duty in His service. But I have taken notice that those very people have often been in such financial straits that they could not refrain from telling their friends, and sometimes the public, of their needs, and almost complain because the collections are so small.

Since we have been studying the Scriptures on this subject we have learned many valuable lessons. We have made some changes occasionally, and we are sure that each change has led us closer to the perfect system. We do not claim to have reached this perfect system yet, but we are surely away up the road toward the goal. It is clearly demonstrated that our ministers have been better supplied under the present system than under the one previously followed. But there may be some important changes to make that will more nearly harmonize with the Scriptures. If this is true we want to search them out and make the changes, for we are surely the most determined people to follow the Scriptures of any body of people in the world. We are willing to make any kind of a change to meet the Biblical requirements. I have forced myself to submit to the Bible many times contrary to my former opinions. I am still open for added light on any question.

But there are probably no changes needed on the subject of paying tithes. We are thoroughly convinced that all should pay one tenth of their income to the Lord, and we are just as fully convinced that the tithe is to be paid to the Church of God—the body of Christ, and not handed around promiscuously according to your own feelings or notion. We are fully convinced that the Church of God is the storehouse into which all tithes are to be brought. I do not think this point is questioned at all. But there may be some other points in connection with the present financial system that are not so clear. And even if there are no amendments or improvements to make it will be good for us to look deeper into the subject. If we have reached the end of it we will stop and be satisfied, and follow the same order we have been following for nearly three years. But here is the question. Some believe we have not yet arrived at the proper plan for distribution. Some think it is a mistake for the overseers of the states to draw from the nine-tenths in the local treasuries. They say it looks too much like taking out the second tithe. Although they know it is not meant for the second tithe, yet it has the appearance of it. And thus they feel we have not yet reached the standard.

In raising this question the people have no disposition to rebel. They do not raise the question to create any dissatisfaction, they want only to find the Biblical standard, and if this is it they are willing to submit and go on with the practice. And if it is not the standard we all want to drop this plan and go on to the standard as soon as we know the next step to take. We are all interested in this subject and all we want is the very right thing. We are not prejudiced. We have no intention of working for

(Continued on page 4)

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F. J. Lee M. S. Lemons
T. S. Payne A. J. Lawson
Geo. T. Brownay

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Always write names and addresses
PLAIN. If we fail to get your name
or address right please notify us and
we will take pleasure in making the
correction.

We will do our best to keep from
making mistakes, but if we make a
mistake we will take pleasure in cor-
recting it if you notify us.

We invite all the workers to send
us reports of interest from the battle-
field. If nothing else a postal card
telling where you are this week.

Help us make the Evangel a
medium of information as well as a
spiritual blessing.

Address all communications re-
lating to the paper, and make all
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tion 1103, Act of October 3rd, 1917,
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There are many things to say,
but some cannot be said now.

The prayer day was great in
some places, and many have
shown their interest in the
drive.

The work at the office is still
increasing, and the Lord is
showing His blessings upon
us.

The paper is climbing again.
The "spell" has been broken
and the workers are doing some
good work in increasing the list.
Many thanks to all.

One dollar has been received
from Lizzie Clark to renew her
subscription, but she failed to
give her address. We want to
hear from her at once.

Several new churches set in
order last month. This shows
that the membership is still
growing. Many more are looking
this way. Praise the Lord.

It will be interesting to many
to hear that 32,999 letters were
received in the Evangel Office
last year. This is more than one
hundred letters per week day.

At the Assembly T. S. Payne
promised to get twenty yearly
subscribers for the Evangel in
a short time. Forty one others
promised the same thing. We
have just received thirty six
yearly subscriptions and two
for two years each from Brother
Payne. I wonder if the other
forty one will respond soon. God
bless them all. Brother Payne
has almost doubled what he
promised. God bless him.

Many are becoming greatly
encouraged and enthused as
they are getting the churches
organized into classes preparatory
to doing good work this
year. The class leaders should
exercise great care and have an
overflow of love as they hold
their class prayer meetings, talk
and pray with their members
from time to time, and correspond
with those at a distance. In this
way the members that move away
will feel that they are not forgotten or neglected. And each class leader should keep in close touch with the
pastor and talk and plan about
how to help every member to
become more like Jesus every
day.

I do not know how the word
has gotten out that a charge
should be brought against mem-

bers for nonattendance, and that
they should be excluded if they
do not attend services regularly.
Probably it is not very widely
spread yet. We do want our
members to attend the services
as much as possible, and it is
better for them, when it is possi-
ble for them to do so, but to
try to enforce attendance may
be a little too strong. We never
know the peculiar circumstan-
ces that surround those who
are kept away. It will be one
duty of the class leaders to en-
courage attendance at public
worship, and if a member of the
class fails to be there the class
leader should try to see them
and help them to be there next
time.

The new order of the tithing
system is getting started slowly
but surely. It will take some
time to get it in full working order,
but it is certainly encour-
aging to note the interest and
enthusiasm manifested in it al-
ready. Many of the churches
paid their preachers up to the
end of December and then sent
all the balance to headquarters
to start in the new order with
the first of the year, but the full
bulk of the tithes will not arrive
at headquarters till the first few
days of February. As a conse-
quence of the above fact the
ministers cannot expect full allot-
ment this month, but those in
charge will do the best they
can while making the change.

Song books. The first edition
of 7,000 Church of God Songs
has been sold. A second edition
is now on the market. This last
edition contains more songs
and is considered by the com-
pilers much superior to the first.
The cost is more so the selling
price is advanced. See prices on
another page. Let us have your
orders. We also carry in stock
His Voice in Song, and Jehovah's
Praise. These books sell
for 40c each and \$4.00 per dozen.

F. L. Ryder and wife who
have been missionaries to South
America for the past three
years have returned to the
states. It is a pleasure to note
that they had a safe voyage
over the deep blue sea. We ex-
pect Brother Ryder will be able
to give some valuable informa-
tion concerning the future pros-
pects of the mission work in
that far away country.

I am much delighted with the
Sunday-school enthusiasm that
seems to be prevailing among
the churches. Many reports say
that their schools are increasing
both in number and interest.

The large orders for literature is
proof of the truthfulness of
these reports. This means a larger
number of people are study-
ing their Bibles, and the children
are being trained to work in the
Church later on.

The Home Class Department is also grow-
ing in favor with the people as

they come to understand it.
Every school should have a
Home Class. The main superin-
tendent should appoint a Home

Class superintendent, and this

superintendent should select

helpers or visitors and the ter-
ritory should be laid out in dis-
tricts and the country canvassed

for Home Class students. If

you want more information about

this department, write for

free literature on the subject.

Be sure and note our call for
names and addresses of people
that we may put before them
our literature. Do not stop till
you have given us a good

lengthy list. We want to bom-
bard them with fiery gospel

through the mails in a manner

that will do them good. Remem-
ber the printed page is a silent

but most effective preacher. It

will deliver messages of love

and power personally. The peo-
ple cannot talk back and resist

it like they can when you talk

to them personally. Give us the

names and addresses and we

will do the rest. Some time after

you have given the names, if you

can make it convenient to call

on them, you may get many of

them to subscribe for the Evan-
gel. Read our ad. requesting

names in another column. Help us! We can work together.

The prayer day drive has
been fruitful of much good.

Many of the churches did not
only pray, but they also helped
to answer their own prayers.
The full results are not yet
known, but we hope the five
thousand mark has been reached
when all the returns have
been counted.

Get subscribers! Oh, get sub-
scribers! Help us run the list up
to twenty five thousand shortly.
We want the good love messages
that surround those who
are kept away. It will be one
duty of the class leaders to en-
courage attendance at public
worship, and if a member of the
class fails to be there the class
leader should try to see them
and help them to be there next
time.

We hope to have the Minutes
of the Assembly ready for sale
in a few days. They are going to
contain something worth
while reading this year. The
price will be higher this year
than formerly, but we will make
the cost as reasonable as possi-
ble. The price will be an-
nounced next week D. V. Look
out for it, then you can send in
your orders.

If any of the ministers do not
have the monthly report forms,
write for them. We have new
ones now specially prepared for
the new tithing system. Minis-
ters who have the old forms
may use them until they are
used up. This will save some
money, and it is necessary for
us to be as economical with our
means as possible. Every minister
will be required to report
regularly on the last day of
every month this year. And if
there are no reports there may
be no checks going. And remem-
ber the amount of the
checks will be in proportion to
the efficient service, position,
etc., so it will mean good work
this year and lots of it. This
little hint is only a token of love
to every one. You all know we
love you and want you to make
good.

REQUESTS

Mrs. Chas. Burk, Trinity, Texas,
requests prayer that God will
send them a preacher.

J. H. Tallent, Vardaman, Miss.,
asks the saints to pray that
he will do the Lord's will.

W. Thomas, Jacks Bow, re-
quests the saints to earnestly
pray that he may receive the
Holy Ghost.

E. S. Peck, Parkersburg, Va.,
wants the saints to pray a
special prayer for him and his
family.

Albert Saymore, Cross, La.,
wants the saints to earnestly
pray that his father will be
healed.

Lucy and Grace Horton, Colum-
bus, Ga., asks the saints to
pray that they may stay hum-
ble and do the Lord's will.

Biddle Chaffin of Naugatuck,
W. Va., asks the saints to
earnestly pray that she may be
found doing the Lord's will.

Mrs. Emma Williamson, Ralls,
Texas, requests prayer for her
daughter who is very weak.
Also for her and her entire
family.

Eldia Lee Hunter, Columbus,
Ga., wants the saints to pray
that she will always stay
humble at Jesus' feet and do
His will at all times.

A lady wants all the saints to
pray that she may be healed.
Also pray that her husband
will be saved.

Mattie Sue Horton, Columbus,
Ga., asks the saints to pray
earnestly that she and her
husband will stay true until
Jesus comes.

V. E. Maron, Bogalusa, La., re-
quests the saints to pray for
her to receive the Holy Ghost.
Also pray for her lame son to
be healed and for her baby.

Ruby Tillman, Dunn, La., re-
quests the saints to earnestly
pray for her husband and wife.

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SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

I'm Afraid to Risk it

F. J. Lee.

(Continued from last week.) I am not writing these articles to hinder their doctrine, but my reason for writing is to keep their doctrine from hindering some of our precious saints who have the Holy Ghost.

I fear "old formality," he is an honorable creature and he associates with every denomination that resists the fulness of the blessing—the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Many of these dear people are good folks and there are many intelligent folks among them, but some will tell you that the Holy Ghost is not for this day; others will say when you pin down on them that the Holy Ghost is alright and the Lord will send it as the "latter rain" just before His second advent, but I don't believe He has done it yet. Just let them go on denying it if they choose, thousands and tens of thousands have received the blessing.

Can I believe that a people who are so mistaken on this great last day subject, have gotten the light on the Sabbath? I say, "No." If any set of people, whoever they may be, can't see this brilliant, glaring, noon day light of this latter rain experience, I am afraid to risk them about other things.

In many other things they are far from the Scriptural teaching. They say the seven mountains on which the woman sitteth, Rev. 17:9, is the city of Rome which sits on seven hills. She may sit on seven hills today, but at the time John received the revelation, Rome occupied twelve hills, beside this, hill and mountain are two different words.

The Lord said in Ezekiel 34:6, "My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill." Notice mountain and hill. Luke quoted Isaiah, "Every mountain and hill shall be brought low." If the original in Rev. 17:9 should have been hills, they would have used the word in Greek which would have translated hills in English.

The word for mountain is oros. The word for hill is ion-nos. The Word says, "In her was found the blood of the prophets." They also say that this woman is the Catholic church with headquarters at Rome. We learn that the prophets were killed several hundred years before the Catholic church came into existence. As they have failed in their interpretation of the above, I am afraid to risk them about the Sabbath.

They also believe and teach the doctrine of "soul sleeping." Do you "Pentecostal and Church of God folks" believe such doctrine as that? Do you believe that your loved ones are sleeping and will not know anything until the resurrection? What about the souls John saw under the altar? They had a memory of the things that had past, they could talk, they could cry and they could wear white robes. A great number of Scriptures teach that the soul doesn't sleep, so if they are wrong in this, I am afraid to risk their doctrine about the Sabbath.

They also teach the annihilation of the wicked. Do you believe that? No, you do not. Why should men dread the judgment if their souls sleep to the judgment day and then, at once, be burned up? The Lord said of Judas, It would have been better for that man if he had never been born. What would Judas have to fear, if his soul is sleeping, then at once after waking he is no more?

This is a doctrine that tends to prompt people to continue in sin. The devil wouldn't have a better thing than this taught. All governments have regarded that it takes pain, physical or mental to constitute punishment. Webster so regards it, so eternal punishment would mean eternal pain. Many Scriptures can be used to disprove this doctrine. All the Scriptures used to sustain this doctrine are misapplied. I can't give further Scripture here for lack of space, but perhaps I will later, in a special article, for I know this doctrine is wrong. If

they are wrong in this I am afraid to risk their Sabbath doctrine.

I have attended their meetings, also their camp meetings. They get people converted, but only to their Sabbath theory, not from sin to righteousness.

Their main teaching is the Sabbath with the above mentioned teachings. Every one knows that they are making no special effort to get people saved, but their hobby is Sabbath and prophecy and getting members from other churches. The above cannot be successfully denied.

Jesus came to seek after and to save the lost. He is our example and if any people fall in the main and fundamental teaching of the Scripture which is the salvation of the world, I am afraid to risk them on a side issue—the Sabbath.

Oh, beloved, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty where-with Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." It will surely get you into bondage, you will wonder why you are so depressed, you will become discouraged and think that every one has forsaken you. Not so, you have forsaken the Spirit-filled saints to go after those that fight it (I mean as a whole) and have taken up with forms and ceremonies and allying yourselves with a people whose teachings as a whole are absolutely not scriptural.

I fancy I hear you say, "You talk mighty bold about it." Dear ones, I don't feel like I would be a good minister if I should hide away and refuse to cry an alarm. I can hardly hold myself as I write on this subject. I feel now welling up within my soul an indignation, not against the people that teach it, but against the devil that is seeking to take the liberty away from the Spirit-filled saints.

When you find yourself separated from the thousands of Spirit-filled saints, the devil will drag you from every side and make you believe that the saints do not appreciate you. Many today that once had sweet liberty have been blown by a wind of doctrine into the valley of despondency.

Let me say again, Stand fast in the liberty and be not again entangled with the yoke of bondage.

Sabbath is from the Greek word "shabbath" which means to repose; rest; desist from exertion etc. Our system and nature demands one seventh of time for Sabbath (rest). It makes no difference which day a nation has adopted for a rest day, it would be a Sabbath, for sabbath day means rest day, but Jesus has given us the first day instead of the seventh, yet, it is the seventh of time though it is the first day. You notice that I said Jesus had given the day. You say the Catholics gave the day. No, they did not. We will take this up in the next article.

A Good Meeting
Dear Brother Tomlinson, and
Saints Scattered Abroad:

I am praising God for victory at this place. Souls are getting saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.

The church here has been increasing in membership in a wonderful way. The church was set in order on Oct. 9, 1920 with nine members and twelve were added later. The membership since then has advanced to fifty-two.

We have been having some wonderful meetings. Brother V. D. Craven was with us in November. The saints were revived and the Lord blessed in a wonderful way. The meeting closed Dec. 19, 1920, with Brother C. H. Randall and our pastor, Brother Edwards, in charge. This was a wonderful meeting and much good was done.

I am praising God for our pastor, Brother Edwards, and wife. They are certainly workers for God.

Saints, please pray much for the saints at this place and pray for me. I feel that God has called me to preach the Word. Please pray for Him to open the way for me to go out in the work at once.

A sister in the Master's service,
Addie B. Hendrix,
Willisburg, Ky.

OBITUARIES

On Dec. 21, 1920, the dear Lord called Mrs. Lena Crowe from her suffering and her friends and loved ones to be with Him.

She was saved and sanctified and was willing and anxious to go. We have no fear for her for we believe that she is safe in the promised land. Our loss is heaven's gain.

She leaves to mourn her death a husband, five daughters, two sons, a mother and step-father, two sisters and five brothers.

Her mother,
Mattie Passmore.

The death angel visited our home Dec. 17, 1920, and claimed a loving husband, W. T. Deatom, age 68 years.

He was not a member of the Church of God but believed in the church and her teachings. He left to mourn his death a wife and six children and four step-children. Our loss is heaven's gain.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother W. M. Stalling. The body was laid to rest in Kannapolis cemetery.

His loving wife,
Mrs. Lizzie Deatom.

God in His wisdom called our dear Sister Bessie Shope to the great beyond Nov. 20, 1920. She was eighteen years of age.

She was a sweet lovable girl; her life was pure and good. She was a true friend to her friends, never repeating anything that would cause any trouble or unpleasant feelings. She was also a true friend to the Church of God.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother S. W. Latimer, and several songs she liked to hear while living was sung by her friends.

She was laid to rest in Mt. Pleasant cemetery to await the coming of Jesus.

One who loved her.

Little Thelma Carroll, daughter of Brother and Sister Luke Carroll of Cleveland, Tenn., was called to her future home, Dec. 25, 1920, age 4 years and 26 days.

Little Thelma was a very smart child but she was never very strong during her short stay here on earth. She was sick about eight days before her death. The parents are both believers in the faith and fully trusted her little body in the hands of God until the end.

Little Thelma has gone to be with her little sister Ruth, where parting is no more.

The funeral service was conducted by the writer and the body was laid to rest in Ft. Hill cemetery in Cleveland.

Their pastor,
L. C. Barrett.

On Dec. 27, 1920, our dear brother A. C. Hale, of Atlanta, Ga. was killed by being run over by a train.

On Christmas night he testified about how the Lord had saved, sanctified and filled him with the Holy Ghost and also how the Lord had shown him a vision of the New Jerusalem and the Tree of Life. The sight seemed to fill him with joy, wonder and amazement. Heaven seemed interested while he told us of the beauty and glory that awaited him over there.

His funeral was conducted by the pastor at the undertakers parlor. A few saints were present. His remains were laid to rest to await the coming of Jesus.

Mrs. A. Gann.

On Dec. 9, 1920, God in His great wisdom looked down in the home of Jas. L. Hendrix and called his loving wife who had been ill for a short time. She was saved and lived a faithful Christian life. She had many trials and temptations but bore them with patience and proved faithful through all of them. The saints were in the home and prayed for her, but God saw fit to call her away. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

She was survived by a hus-

band and nine children.

Her body was laid to rest in Rockbridge cemetery to await the resurrection.

One who loved her,
Addie B. Hendrix.

The death angel visited the home of the Rogers family at Wimauma, Fla., and claimed their mother, aged 81 years. She had been a great sufferer for over two years.

She received the Holy Ghost thirteen years ago last July and came into the Church of God when Brother Tomlinson set it in order at Durant, Fla. She was a lively member of the same Church. She was always ready to entertain the people of God and did her part in the service of God. During the latter part of her sickness she would try to get her unsaved children to do right and meet her in heaven. She left nine children and several grand children to mourn her loss, but if they will be true to God they will meet her in heaven where parting comes no more.

The funeral service was conducted by E. E. Simmons at the Antioch Cemetery near her home.

Dear ones, weep not as those who have no hope. We feel sure she is enjoying the bliss of heaven.

One who loved her,
Mrs. E. E. Simmons.

On Nov. 24, 1920, the death angel visited our home and claimed our darling grandmother, Arkansas Campbell, age 65 years.

She was not a member of the Church of God, but she was a strong believer. We miss her in our home and we are grieved on the account of giving her up, but our loss is heaven's gain.

She leaves to mourn her death, five children, three girls and two boys, several grandchildren, and a host of friends.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Edd Louis of Whiteside. Her body was laid to rest in the Shell Mound Cemetery.

We loved her, yes, we loved her, But Jesus loved her more; And He has shortly called her, To yonder shining shore.

In the graveyard softly sleeping Where the flowers gently wave; Lies our darling grandmother, In her silent lonely grave.

You shall never be forgotten, Never from our memory fade; Loving hearts will always linger Around the grave where you are laid.

Her granddaughter,
Lola Gouger.

Gone to Be With Jesus

On Aug. 7, 1920 the death angel visited the home of Estell Peardon and claimed his darling wife, Mamie Peardon, age 18 years.

She was a daughter of Sister Fannie Moreland. She was faithful until death. We weep not as those who have no hope for our loss is heaven's gain.

She leaves to mourn her death a husband, baby, mother, two brothers and one sister.

The funeral was conducted by C. C. Gouger and her body was laid to rest in the Tunal graveyard.

Over yonder in that city, Where the streets are paved with gold;

Freed from sorrow, death and sickness,

Safely in the Shepherd's fold.

Yes, we'll miss you, Mamie darling, For we loved you, tongues can't tell;

But Jesus loved you better,

And called you home to dwell.

Where the lovely angels gather,

How they'll love you and sing;

Oh, we know you will be happy,

When you hear the music ring.

You shall never be forgotten,

Never from our memory fade;

Loving hearts will always linger,

Around the grave where you are laid.

One who loved her,
Lola Gouger.

Card of Thanks

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to our many friends and loved ones, for the kind ness shown to us during the

brief illness and death of our darling baby, Lillian Ruth.

Little Ruth was born in Cleveland, Tenn. She lived with us three years, three months and eighteen days, during which time she filled our hearts with pleasure. We thank God for her and her good health and the wonderful intelligence that she possessed. Since Ruth has left us our hearts are void of the pleasure that her sweet face,

pleasant words and clever acts brought to us. God in His infinite wisdom has taken her and our hearts are filled with grief but in the midst of our grief there is a consolation and hope that we will soon join her in her bliss.

Ruth departed this life at Wimauma, Fla., Dec. 18, 1920. Her little form was laid to rest in the Fort Hill cemetery at Cleveland, Tenn., Dec. 20, 1920, to await the resurrection, when by the grace of God, papa and mama will ascend with her to meet the Lord in the air and ever be with Him where parting and grief can come no more. J. P. and Nellie Marie Hughes.

I KNEW AND I KNOW

I knew about the Class meetings some time ago. There was much good accomplished by organizing the class into bands. We derived much good from the meetings after organizing the members and placing officers and rulers over the members in a systematic order. I know now that it will do more good for those who practice it and those who hear.

I know it is like the waters Ezekiel saw. See Eze. 47:1, 5. Beloved, it was God's plan to ordain deacons. It was done after Jesus went away and was set forth by the leaders of the church.

"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons." Phil. 1:1. Therefore the churches of today have the same Jesus to lead them, and have the same right to set forth ordinances that the leaders of the church had when they ordained deacons. I praise God for these glorious rights for our leaders.

I know it is dangerous to reject this ordinance. For reference, I know certain persons that rejected ordinances and government, and began to go down spiritually. We visited them, had prayer and prevailed much with them teaching them the benefit and beauties of ordinance, but they stubbornly rejected. We had to withdraw from them. Where are they today? They are wandering off from the fold of God and will be forever lost except they repent and come back to the fold and are willing to be governed as God sees best.

I know and believe—that no one will object to these ordinances if they understand them and want to do the will of God. I know what I said as soon as I understood the class meetings and here it is, "It is impossible for the church to get along without them." I see it is divinely set forth, therefore, it is impossible for us to get along without them. Hallelujah! Beloved, let us accept and practice every divine ordinance that is set forth by the Lord, through His servants. We will praise the Lord.

Determined to Work for Jesus

Dear Brother Tomlinson—Greetings in Jesus' Dear Name:

I am praising my Savior for what He has done for me. He has done something for me that no one else could do. I praise Him for picking me up and placing my feet on higher ground.

I love the dear Church of God and her doctrines. She is going to shine above the hills some day. If every saint of God would do what they promised Him when He filled them with the Holy Ghost, we would surely win the world for Him. The poor would have the gospel preached to them and the widows and orphans would be helped many times where they are neglected.

We say we are following the dear old Bible. Then let us measure our lives by its teach-

ings, let us pay tithes, visit the widows and orphans and minister unto the poor. See James 1:27. "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unstained from the world." We have a crown laid up for us if we only obey His Word. The blessed words of comfort. Again the promise is to us if we will pay our tithes. Mal. 3:8-10. "Will a man rob God? yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

We can help you spread the Gospel in your own town and neighborhood

If you will send us the names of people in your town that you would love to see come into Pentecost and the Church of God—we will help you love them and win them.

Here's What We'll Do

We will bombard them with Pentecostal literature, the Evangel, tracts, "The Last Great Conflict"—and we will undertake to get them to study the Bible with us by Correspondence. We will love them all the time—and when we send them literature we will pray—and you pray—and what with all the preaching, and literature, and praying—there ought to be a harvest of souls into Pentecost and the Church of God.

This campaign, which will be inaugurated immediately, will be especially for people who are now professing Christians but who ought to be drawn deeper into God.

Preaching through the mail is very effective. A lot of good folks all about you wish down in their hearts they had the experience of salvation you have. Perhaps you never have occasion to talk to them. It doesn't make any difference who it is—if you are aware he or she professes to be a Christian, send us their name and we will preach to them by letter. And most people open their letters and read them.

Name
St. Address
City
State

If you think of others later—send them also. But send ten names if you possibly can this week.

ADDRESS BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY (Continued from page one)

any selfish interests. We do not form factions and try to run some scheme through by "wire-pulling" and advantage. We are honest. We are sincere. We do not mean to make laws, we only mean to search out the laws that are already made and marked out in the Scriptures and put them into practice. This is our desire in reaching the standard for the financial system.

There is another current working its way through the minds of our people concerning the financial system. There may not be much said about it, but I am sure there is a good deal thought about it. If I should mention it here surely no one will take offence at it. I do not want to offend any one. I want to bless and help and encourage. I want to speak words of edification and comfort. It is my desire to keep moving toward the complete Bible standard. But it is not my purpose to speak from a personal point of view at this time. I am only to speak now of a sentiment among our people, and it may be stronger than some of us realize. That sentiment is in favor of a general headquarters treasury into which all the tithes are to be placed, with seven men to regulate and make, or order, the distribution among the ministers according to their needs and the efficiency of their work, and the responsibility of the position in which they serve.

And this may be the Scriptural System. And the Scriptural System is what we are driving for. We want to make the goal at this Assembly. If this is it I'm sure the Lord will let us see eye to eye about it, and when we make the decision it will seem good to the Holy Ghost and us.

(At this time two messages were given through the Holy Ghost, in other tongues, and interpreted, which were approval of the plan of the financial system which had just been given. Only a few words of the messages were written down but the messages in full were truly wonderful. A few words are given here.)

First message—"This is My Plan. Stand true and look to Me. I planned—"

Second message—"There have been many confusions. The gospel must be carried to every nation. This has been a great hindrance. I am glad I have a few who will follow My Word."

To adopt this system would mean quite a change, but changes are often good for us, and especially so when we change from bad to good or from good to better or best. If this plan is accepted the tithe of tithes would drop off. That which appears to be a second tithe paid to the state overseer would disappear. The charge of following the law in this respect could not be made any more. It would land us back to our Father Abraham and Melchizedec. Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedec, and Melchizedec was a "priest of the most high God, and Christ was made a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedec."

The Levitical law said a tithe of the tithes, also called the heave offering, should be given to the high priest, but Abraham paid all the tithes to Melchizedec instead of a tithe of the tithes. When the priesthood was changed from the order of Levi and Aaron, back to the order of Melchizedec, it was necessary to change the law. This is clearly stated at Hebrews 7:12. "For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law." The change then with respect to the tithes is apparent. No more heave offering. No more tithe of tithes, but all the tithes given to our High Priest—Jesus. And since the Church is the body of Christ, the tithes are to be

struck the earth." If this is true in real practice then it will require the very highest type of organization. And a close study of God's handiwork shows how careful God is in his congregation. The stars of the universe are so perfectly organized that they never have any collisions. There are no wrecks or conflicts in the heavens. The sweet singer of Israel beheld God's perfect organization when He sang, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech (tells of God's perfect organization), and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard. Their line is gone out through the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it; and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever: the judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is the servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward."

This whole song tells of God's perfect organization in the heavens. And can we suppose that He wants His starry heavens to be any more perfectly organized than His church? Does He not speak of His church as being the apple of His eye? Isn't she His own beloved government? Is she not organized and kept under the laws of His own beloved Son? Does He not want to use us as instruments by whom He can organize His own institution as perfectly as His stars in the skies, so there will be no collisions or frictions that will cause trouble between man and man?

Come now, beloved, do not object to the very thing that you have been praying for years. But now, since Abraham paid all the tithes to Melchizedec, and Christ is a priest forever after the order of Melchizedec, this surely puts the tithes all in one place with no tithe of tithes. Then the distribution can be made with perfect safety, and give no chance for a surplus to pile up unused unless there is really more than it takes to supply all the ministers. At any rate there would be none tied up where it could not be gotten to when needed.

This plan would solve some serious problems. It would prevent a surplus from accumulating in the tithe of tithes treasury which could not be used for the common ministry. It would prevent a surplus from accumulating in the local treasuries where it could not be gotten to supply some of the ministers that were in want. It would remove the temptation for ministers to "feel led to go" to a certain place where they had heard the treasury was well filled. They would be just as ready to go to some neglected field of labor as to a place that has been well supplied with ministers. It would solve the evangelistic and new work problem. In fact, it would be a strong incentive and stimulus to the spread of the gospel into new fields as well as to build up the work among the poor and at places that are weak and almost ready to die. It would stop such questions as, "Will I get my care? Will they give me a support for my family? How much does that Church pay? How much money do you have in the treasury? Can't you give me a little more this time?" "Aren't you letting me have it all, this time, as I am in special need this week?" And it will stop the saying, "Brother M.—went to the churches ahead of me and got all the tithes in the treasury and when I got there they had nothing to give me. Brother Z.—has the favor of the treasurer of the Church at S.—and when he goes there he gets a good lift."

These may not be bad questions and statements, but I'm sure we can spend our time and breath to better advantage than in such meditations or expressions. And if it is according to the Bible to have all the tithes come to one common center and paid out in first class systematic order every one of us will be in favor of it. This subject will be given further attention further on in the Assembly. We are all anxious to reach the perfect Bible system that will bring joy and perfect satisfaction.

Names at Headquarters

We are surely God's chosen people, as it is written, "He hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world." And we esteem this a great honor conferred upon us. Since He has honored us with such a high calling we have a great desire to honor Him. We love Him because He first loved us, so we want to honor Him because He first honored us. And we honor Him by our fidelity and loyalty to His Word. We are exceedingly zealous for the fulfillment and practice of His Word. And this Word that we love so well instructs us concerning the importance of good government and thorough organization.

The organization of the Church is fairly under way but it is not yet complete. We feel pressed to continue in the direction we have been traveling for more than fifteen years. We are going on unto perfection, but do not claim we have reached the goal yet. But we have made some rapid strides in that direction. There are some things, however, that should be undertaken now that may not have been so useful in the past, and we may not yet see the full import of them now like we will a little later.

(To be Continued)

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WHAT ABOUT AN INVISIBLE CHURCH

C. N. Guire

As so many people are talking about an invisible church, I want to write on this subject through the Evangel.

We hear people say, The Lord added me to the church and man can't put me out. Many of these are people who have been turned out of the Church of God for using tobacco and living crooked lives. When they learn they are to be brought up in conference for some of their dirty lives they cry out, God put me in and man can't take me out. Beloved, I have heard so much of this until I feel like denouncing it. It will lead people astray and cause them to backslide and lose their soul.

Not very long ago I came in contact with some teachers of this doctrine (an invisible spiritual church) that all Christians are members of, which caused me to begin reading the Scripture to see if there were a church of this kind and I found none. But, thank God, I found enough Bible to prove to any man that the Church of God is not invisible but visible. Yes, the church is visible. It is here in this world. There is not a word in the Bible that is written to an invisible church.

Paul the apostle wrote to the Church of God which is at Corinth, not in heaven but at Corinth. 1 Cor. 1:2.

"I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church." 3 John 9, 10.

We notice in this Scripture that Diotrephes would not receive the brethren in the church and the one that would, he cast out of the church. Now, brother, do you say God receives people in the church and man can't turn them out? How is it that this man cast folks out of the church that should have stayed in, and would not receive those that should have been in? Oh, your spiritual, invisible church theory won't stand the Bible test. It is as rotten as a lot of other doctrines I know of in the world.

God has said in His Word, "For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the Church of God?" 1 Tim. 3:5. Take care of what? The Church of God. It is here in this world and the bishops are to take care of it.

"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." 1 Tim. 3:15. Yes, the Church of God is the pillar and ground of the truth. She holds up the whole truth to the world. That is what makes us the Church of God. We obey the Bible in every particular and that is why God blesses us so much.

"For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews' religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the Church of God and wasted it." Gal. 1:13. Paul wasted the Church of God. He was going to Damascus to arrest the saints when God showed him what he must do to be saved. He made havoc of the church, put the saints in prison etc., but the thought is, if the church is in heaven how could he waste it?

Some say they believe in the Church of God, all are the Church of God—if they are saved they are in the church.

"And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to join himself to the disciples: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple." Acts 9:26. You do not get in when you get saved, neither when you get sanctified, neither when you get baptized. The Holy Ghost when He comes to Jerusalem and assayed to join himself to the disciples. Assayed means tried or attempted. We see that he made a trial or attempt to join but they didn't believe that he had received the Holy Ghost. Why did he come to Jerusalem to join himself to

the disciples if he were already in the church? Some one says, Did they ever receive him into the church? "And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship." Gal. 2:9. Yes, they received him into the church, they gave him the right hand of fellowship.

We receive the members in the church today just like the apostles did in the early days, and if some one creeps in unaware or backsides after he gets in and will not live right, we have a Bible way to deal with him.

"But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a raller, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person." 1 Cor. 5:11-13.

Notice the thought, for what have I to do to judge them also that are without? God judges the folks that are without the church. Do not ye judge them that are within? God has placed his ministers in their place and those in authority are to judge between the brethren. Put away from among yourselves that wicked person. The thought is not to keep him in the church if he lives a wicked life.

"Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us." 2 Thes. 3:6.

My dear "spiritual and invisible" church friend, how can you make this a spiritual church? If God adds the people to the church without the aid of man, how is it that Paul commands us to withdraw from those that walk disorderly? "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." Acts 2:47.

"After these things came Jesus and his disciples into the land of Judea; and there he tarried with them, and baptized." John 3:22. To look at this passage it looks like that Jesus did the baptizing himself. "Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples." John 4:2. The disciples did the baptizing but Jesus gave them the authority to do it. In just the same way we are added to the church.

Corbin, Ky.

Dear Evangel Readers:

I have never had a testimony in the Evangel but I want to sound a note of praise this morning. He is wonderful to me. He saved me thirteen years ago, not long after that He sanctified me wholly and about two years later, He baptized me with the Holy Ghost.

I have been healed by the mighty power of God many times. Praise His name. I am still trusting Him for healing according to James 5:13-15.

I have been a member of the Church two years. I find in it love, peace and unity. It is so sweet to trust in Jesus. Bless His name.

Saints, pray for me.

Bertha Blankenship.

Charlotte, Tenn.

Dear Saints Scattered Abroad—Greetings in the Name of Jesus:

I want to praise God for this wonderful plan of salvation that keeps us above sin every day. Thank God. I really love Jesus above everything in this world. He has placed my feet on the solid rock, Christ Jesus. He really saved, sanctified and baptized me with the Holy Ghost, and I really know that the Comforter abides now. Thank God.

I want to so live in this present world that I won't be ashamed to come before my blessed Savior when He comes to catch His bride away. Pray that I will be true.

Altha Weakley.
Order of EVANGEL OFFICE.

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